



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

July 15, 2005

Ed Roberson, Treasurer
Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account
2424 21st Avenue Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37212

Response Due Date:
August 15, 2005

Identification Number: C00040220

Reference: February Monthly Report (1/1/05-1/31/05)

Dear Mr. Roberson:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(c) prohibit a State, district or local party committee (combined) from receiving any contribution from a person or non-multicandidate political committee in excess of \$10,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

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Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) B and H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Reimbursement" and "Campaign Expense." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule B of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for "Reimbursement." Please be advised that when itemizing reimbursements to individuals for goods or services, if the payment to the original vendor aggregates in excess of \$200 in a calendar year, a memo entry including the name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and purpose of the original purchase must be provided. Please amend your report to include the missing information. If itemization is not necessary, you must indicate so in an amendment to this report. 11 CFR §104.9, and Advisory Opinions 1992-1 and 1996-20, footnote 3

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for "Reimbursement." Please be advised that when itemizing reimbursements to individuals for goods or services, payment to the original vendors must be itemized as memo entries regardless of amount. Each memo entry must include the name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date,

amount and purpose of the original purchase must be provided. Please amend your report to include the missing information. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinions 1992-1 and 1996-20, footnote 3

-Please amend your report by providing the address and purpose for each disbursement itemized on Schedule(s) H4 supporting Line(s) 21(a).

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses payments to Pinnacle Direct and Southwest Publishing, which are categorized as administrative expenses; however, the purposes of disbursement disclosed are "Fundraising Direct mail" and "Fundraising for party operations." Please be advised that payments made for your committee's fundraising activities must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Please amend your report to clarify the appropriate category for this activity or provide clarifying information regarding this apparent discrepancy.

-Your report discloses a transfer(s) for "DESIGNATED AS STATE FUNDS" and "PAYROLL" to the "TN GOP Legislative Campaign Comm" which appears to be a non-federal account of your committee. 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7 prohibits a committee's federal account from reimbursing its non-federal account for shared allocable expenses. Also, the non-federal account is prohibited from paying the federal account's share of these expenses. These types of costs must be paid according to the allocation ratio derived from the appropriate method on Schedule H1.

If the transfer(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If your non-federal account has paid any expenditures which should have been allocated, you are advised to correct any non-compliance with 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7 and establish procedures to insure future compliance with allocation regulations.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Fundraising Direct mail," "Mailing," and "Voter Mail". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

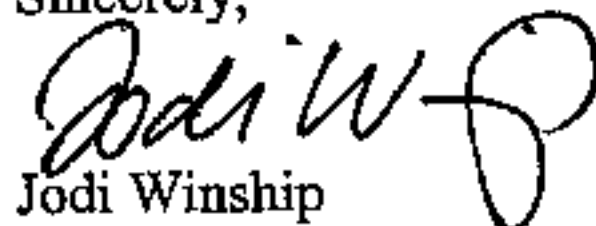
Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1136.

Sincerely,



Jodi Winship
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN PARTY FEDERAL ELECTION ACCOUNT

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Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Gregory,John	01/19/05	\$250,000.00	2005 February Monthly

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